

ASIAN AMERICANS AND TOBACCO IN WASHINGTON

WHAT NATIONAL DATA ARE SAYING...

- Smoking is responsible for 87% of the lung cancer deaths in the United States. Overall, lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths among Asian Americans.
- According to most recent national data in 2004, about 11% of Asian Americans are current smokers – lower than the national average. However, there is strong evidence showing some Asian American ethnic groups, especially Southeast Asian and Korean men with much higher smoking rates than the national average.
- Asian Americans with a higher English-language proficiency and those living in the United States longer are less likely to be smokers. Asian American women are also less likely to be current smokers.
- One study found a higher density more space was used for tobacco displays in Asian American stores compared to other stores, minority-owned or otherwise.

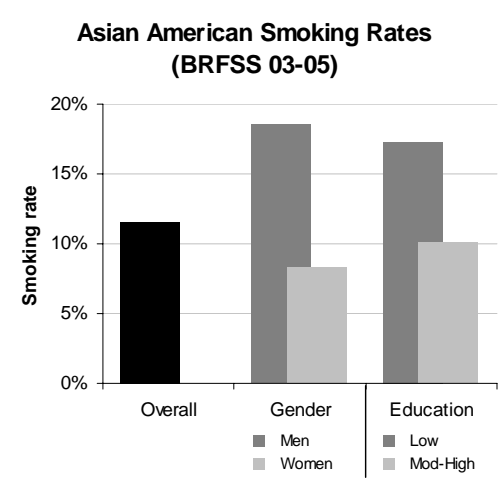
WHAT WASHINGTON DATA ARE SAYING ABOUT ADULTS

Smoking and quitting data in Washington say...

- Overall smoking rate is about 7%; lower than the state rate of 18% - NOTE: Washington data are only among English speaking adults and thus do not reflect substantially higher smoking rates that are found within individual Asian American ethnic groups.
- Lower smoking rate is driven by low smoking rates among Asian American women
- Asian American smokers are 2 times more likely to be occasional smokers.
- About 60% of smokers have tried to quit in the past year
- More than 75% of tobacco users would like to quit

Compared* to the rest of Washington, Asian American smokers are...

- Less likely to be advised to quit by a Health Care Provider – although not significantly different
- Equally as likely to be offered or referred to help by their health care provider
- Less likely to know about the Quitline – although not significantly different
- Less likely to have/know about healthcare benefits that cover cessation – although not significantly different



Secondhand smoke data in Washington say...

- At work, exposure to secondhand smoke is about 9%; this is about equal to the overall state rate of about 8%
- At home, exposure to secondhand smoke is about 6%; this is lower than the overall state rate of about 13%

Compared* to the rest of Washington, Asian Americans are...

- Equally likely to agree that secondhand smoke is very harmful
- More likely to agree that there should be laws protecting non-smokers from secondhand smoke
- More likely to believe that ALL children should be protected from secondhand smoke
- Twice as likely to believe there should be outdoor secondhand smoke laws that protect children

*Taking into account differences in education and age – NOTE: Differences reflected as “not significantly different” mean no statistical difference was detected.

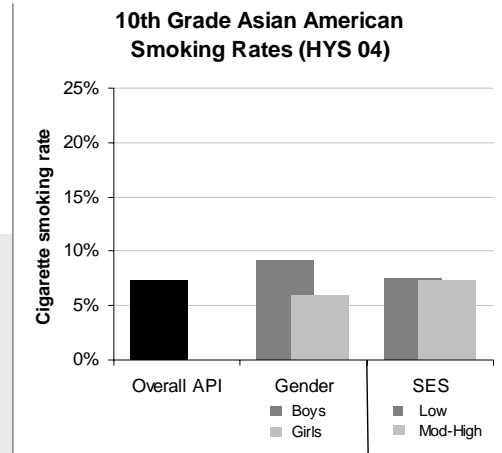
WHAT WASHINGTON DATA ARE SAYING ABOUT YOUTH

Smoking and susceptibility data among 10th graders say...

- Overall cigarette smoking rate for 10th graders is about 7% - lower than the state rate of 13%.
- Smoking rates are not different between boys and girls – unlike smoking rate differences seen among adults.
- Smoking rates are not different by socio-economic status (SES)
- About 25% are susceptible to tobacco use – meaning they have not made a firm commitment not to smoke

Compared to the rest of Washington, Asian American 10th graders are...

- Half as likely to smoke cigarettes, cigars and use smokeless tobacco
- Just as likely to smoke pipe tobacco, bidis, and cloves
- Less likely to be susceptible to tobacco use
- Just as likely to live with someone who smokes



Attitudes about smoking from data among 10th graders say...

- About 75% think smoking a few cigarettes a day is very harmful
- About 73% think smoking a pack or more of cigarettes a day is very risky
- About 64% think smoking is very wrong for young people
- About 28% think it's very hard to get cigarettes
- About 63% have had discussions with parents about the dangers of tobacco
- About 72% received information about the dangers of tobacco in school in the past year

Secondhand smoke data among 10th graders say...

- Over 37% of non-smokers have been exposed to secondhand smoke in a room or a car in the past week
- About 68% think that secondhand smoke is very harmful

Compared to the rest of Washington, Asian American 10th graders are...

- Just as likely to believe light smoking, heavy smoking, and secondhand smoke are very harmful
- Just as likely to believe smoking is very wrong for young people
- Just as likely to believe cigarettes are very hard to get
- Just as likely to have talked with their parents about the dangers tobacco use
- Just as likely to have received information in classes about the dangers of tobacco
- Less likely to be exposed to secondhand smoke in a room

CONCLUSIONS

- Tobacco prevention and control continues to be an important public health intervention among Asian American youth.
- Continued attention must be given to specific subgroups within this diverse community.